



October, 1995

Volume XXVI, No. 9

FREE

## Hill Festival Celebrates the Neighborhood

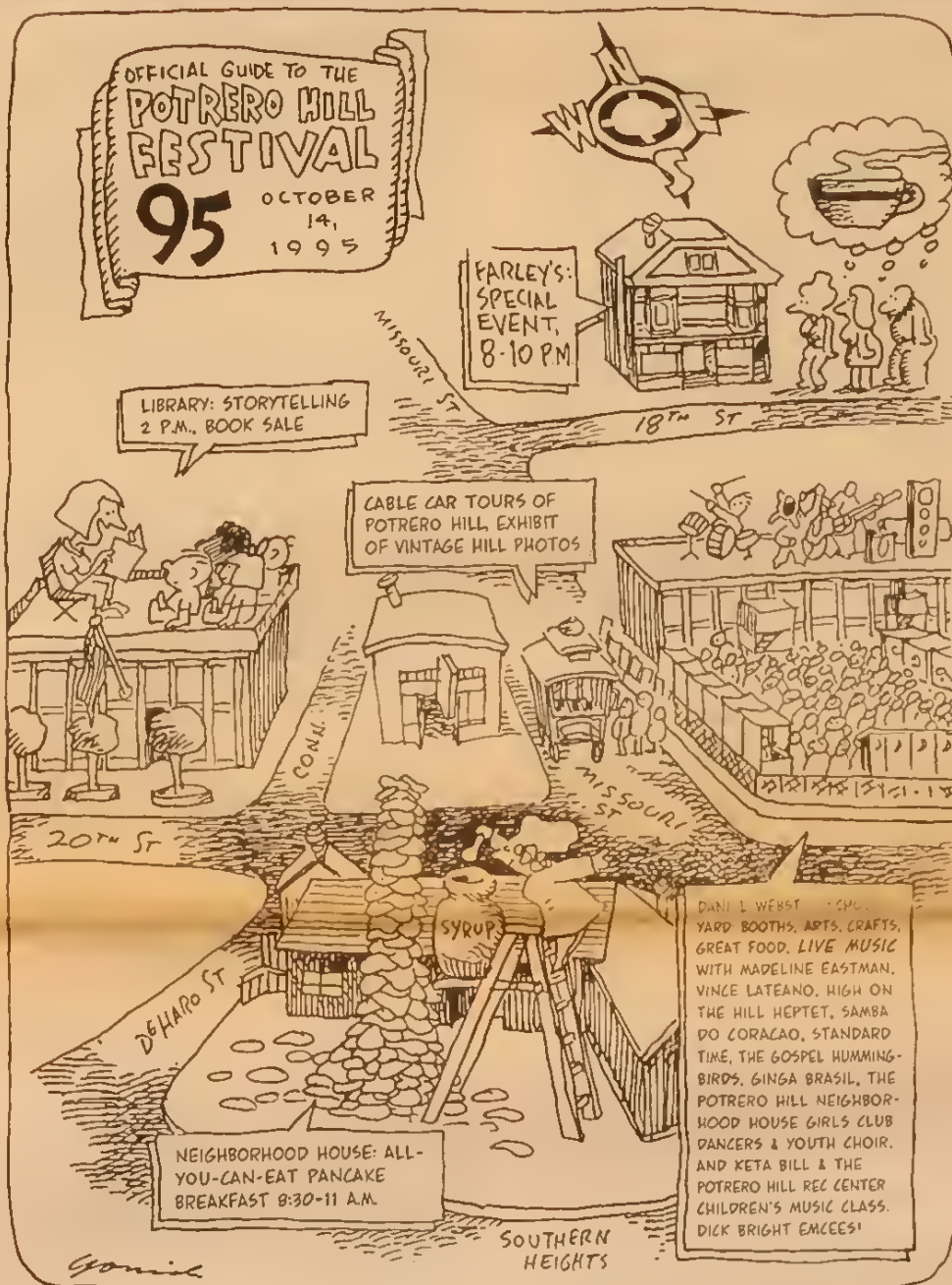
The seventh annual Potrero Hill Festival Saturday, Oct. 14 begins with an "All You Can Eat" pancake breakfast at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., at 8:30 a.m., and moves down the Hill into the Daniel Webster Schoolyard and on Missouri Street, with continuous entertainment, refreshments, crafts and community booths from noon to 5 p.m.

Dubbed by locals as the "little festival with a view," the outdoor fest is highlighted by tours of the Hill on a motorized cable car; face painting, handmade crafts and good food. The Potrero Archives project offers pictorial and print versions of the area's past with an extensive outdoor exhibit.

The Potrero Library at 1616-20th St. will host a storytelling program for children at 2 p.m., and Hill businesses will feature evening events to compliment the day's activities: Mary and the Vanishing Breed (a trio) performs at Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut St. at 7:30 p.m., and Farley's on 18th Street plans entertainment from 8 p.m.

Children's entertainment during the day includes: Keta Bill and the Rec Center Children's Music Class; and the Neighborhood House Youth dancers and choir. Band leader and Hill resident Dick Bright will emcee the event.

Festival events — except for the breakfast — are free of charge. The Festival is sponsored by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, a nonprofit community center, PG&E, Dolphin Graphics, and Leo's Tire and Brake Shop. For more information call 826-8080.



## HUD Action Nixes Funds For Potrero Annex Fixup

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has rejected the San Francisco Housing Authority's application for funding to rebuild Potrero Annex public housing, Rep. Nancy Pelosi's office announced Sept. 26.

Meanwhile, HUD is awarding the housing authority a \$22 million grant for the renovation of projects in Hayes Valley.

"I'm heartbroken," said Richard Millet, of the Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants Assn. "I think it's going to be very difficult to get decent public housing without federal funding. It's going to make it harder, not easier."

"Given the tight fiscal realities in Washington, the most HUD was going to fund was one of the two projects," said Pelosi aide Michael Yuki. "Hayes was the city's first priority. It was a project that was ready to go and was stronger in terms of being able to get going faster than Potrero."

Yuki notes that HUD's rejection of the Potrero application does not mean that it's 'finito' for renovations on Potrero Hill. "Potrero," he said, "because of its public-private partnership is still a very strong project and we look forward to working with HUD in the next fiscal year to try and obtain funding to begin the project."

The grant program, called HOPE VI, stirred controversy among public housing tenants when it was first announced last February. Then the grant was for up to \$50 million and the housing authority was proposing to demolish and rebuild both Potrero Terrace and Annex. But in summer Congress slashed HUD funds, prompting the authority to revamp its proposal. In the new plan only Potrero Annex, home to 416 low-income residents, would have been raised.

The inclusion of private developers in the proposal alarmed some tenants who feared the choice real estate was clandestinely being sold from under them.

"I'm quite pleased," said Potrero Hill day-care provider and activist Oscarine Williams of HUD's decision. "I'm not opposed to fixing or even rebuilding these places. The scary part was that they invited private developers to participate in the process. I think it's a concerted effort on the part of people in positions of power to take this land."

-A.M.

## Suspects Charged in Hill Bus Beating As Victim Faces an Uncertain Future

By Michael Mattis

Reports of California's falling crime rate come as cold comfort to Suzanne Laporta. David Adams, Laporta's boyfriend of three years, was left crippled after a brutal attack by a gang of teenagers on Potrero Hill Sept. 8.

"When I first saw David in the hospital I almost passed out," said Laporta, "his ears had almost been torn off." Adams underwent reconstructive surgery while in intensive care at San Francisco General Hospital. He has since been transferred to another facility.

Three juveniles have been arrested and charged with robbery and aggravated assault, according to the District Attorney's office. They face a pretrial hearing Oct. 2. Because the suspects are juveniles, the District Attorney refuses to release any details about them. A fourth warrant has been issued for an adult suspect, according to police Lt. Daniel Suson of the Night Investigations unit.

"The investigation has focused on these four in particular," said Lawson. "They are the most responsible." Lawson noted that all four suspects live "in a neighborhood in the area."

The incident occurred aboard Muni's 48 Quintara line at about 7:30 p.m. Adams, 26, was riding the bus to his home in the Mission District after work, according to Laporta. As the bus entered Arkansas Street it was boarded by 12-15 youths that witnesses described as "looking for trouble."

As Adams sat near the rear of the bus one of the juveniles allegedly approached him and said, "What's up n—?" When Adams responded, the juvenile lashed out. The other juveniles joined in, eventually dragging Adams off the bus, striking and kicking him in the head as he struggled to break free, according to police reports.

"The victim did not initiate any of the violence," said Lawson. "He was literally a victim."

Police said the driver was also injured in the melee, but not seriously.

"We heard the noise and came outside," said one witness, who was visiting relatives in the neighborhood at the time of the attack. "We saw this group of people around this guy — several young men were kicking him."

Eventually the crowd began to disperse, some running off down Madera Street after another man who tried to intervene, leaving Adams in the street. But then, said the witness, "this one kid comes back up and gives [Adams] this incredible kick to the head. His face... he was bleeding profusely from his head."

Laporta, who moved out with Adams from Syracuse, New York two years ago, said her boyfriend will never be the same. Suffering from acute bruises on his brain, Adams has no memory of the incident and has experienced what may be a permanent loss of short-term memory. He is currently in an "acute care center." From there he will be transferred to an "intensive rehabilitation living center" where, according to Laporta, "he'll undergo therapy morning, noon and night."

"When they've done all they can," said Laporta, "then they will decide whether or not he'll ever be able to live independently again."

(Continued on Page 5)

## Meeting to Finalize Parking Boundary

A public meeting to discuss the time limitations and to finalize the proposed boundaries for the area to be included in the Residential Permit Parking program around San Francisco General Hospital will be held October 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carr Auditorium, S.F.G.H., 22nd and San Bruno Streets.



# LETTERS

## Friendship Garden

Editor:

The Connecticut Friendship Garden located at Connecticut and what would be 22nd Street has nearly doubled in size in 1995. The addition of ten brand new garden plots will greatly help meet the demand of gardeners on the Hill to have a place in which to grow.

A special thanks must go out to the following groups and individuals whose efforts made this expansion possible: Janet Gomes & The San Francisco Conservation Corp. including Youth In Action, Beth Salazar, Mia Amato & The Potrero Hill Garden Club, The San Francisco Sheriff's Worker Alternative Program, and Brian Lease & The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. The heavy rains this past winter on this site's fairly steep slope made this project quite a challenge.

The design for The Connecticut Friendship Garden was provided by Steve Kolm of Kwong, Kolm & Lao Architects, a Potrero Hill firm. Steve Kolm was responsible for the design of the original garden completed in late 1993. Happily, our garden won Honorable mention in 1994 from The Berkeley Horticultural Nursery's highly competitive Garden Contest. Not bad for a one year old garden.

The Connecticut Friendship Garden is open to any City resident who wishes to garden on a first come first served basis. Each gardener is responsible for one's own plot and all share in maintaining the common areas. Among the numerous plants we grow are artichokes, gourmet potatoes, and purple beans. We also have lemon, apple, fig cherry and Asian pear trees. Included with these are a variety of ornamentals that bloom throughout the year.

If you the reader or anyone you know would be interested in getting on our Garden Plot Waiting List or would like more information on The Potrero Hill Garden Club activities, call me at 285-6202.

**Kurt Hase**  
Garden Coordinator  
Connecticut Friendship Garden

## Control Your Dog!

Editor:

I need to share and inform you of a very unpleasant experience that I had with my three year old at McKinley Square Park one evening around 6:45 p.m. Please print my letter.

As I was walking up the stairs towards the toddler swings, a huge dog approached us jumping on us and nearly knocked me down the stairs. My three year old

as terrorized and I was pleading for help while the dog's owner stood nearby and watched my struggle without making any attempt to restrain his dog that is supposed to be on a "leash." I also felt frightened and vulnerable.

Parents, beware of this careless, inconsiderate and uncooperative dog owner that visits McKinley Square.

**Judith Chavez**  
Vermont Street

## Power Line Dangers

Editor:

Plans are afoot to build an electric-power-generation plant near Islais Creek, that's due southeast of Potrero Hill. So the professional social activists (who are in politics, public relations, and the media precisely because they were not too swift in math, physics, and chemistry) have loosed a cry to heaven about environmental pollution from the proposed plant. And now organizations of Potrero Hill people are parroting the cry.

Crying about pollution from the plant is crying wolf. Why? Because the plant burns very, very clean. The visible stuff coming out of the plant's tall stack is pure steam. (The proof is the clear space between the top of the stack and the bottom of the vapor plume coming from the stack.)

The real wolf is the high-voltage overhead lines that run from the existing Potrero electric-power-generation plant, over Potrero Hill, and then cut north towards Market Street. Never mind the electromagnetic field stuff - that's more junk science. Never mind how ugly the overhead towers and fat aluminum power cables—that's just aesthetics (though no one would ever run such ugly lines through the Marina or Pacific Heights and not even through the Richmond or Sunset). Never mind the buzzing St. Elmo's fire (high-voltage sparks) leaking to ground across the insulators and messing up TV and radio reception in the neighborhood. So what is the real problem?

The real problem is that in times of violent earth shaking some of the lines may well fall. They may fall because the poles topple, the cross arms break, or the insulator attachment points break off. Fallen high-voltage lines will immediately set houses on fire. And there will be no electricity to pump water up the hill to fight the fires. That's the real Potrero Hill wolf. Pollution be damned. Let's get the high-voltage lines off the Hill, or get them underground. And let's get started tomorrow.

**Lewis C. Epstein**  
Vermont Street

## GETTING INVOLVED

**ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector)** meets the first Thursday of each month (Oct. 5) in the Community College - downstairs - at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. This month they will present a Mayoral Candidates Forum. The public is invited to attend; to meet, listen and question the candidates. Six are scheduled to speak: Achtenberg, Alioto, Brown, Hom, Jordan and Ventresca. The sponsors respectfully request that we arrive on time; 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board** will not hold its regular 2nd Monday meeting this month. Instead they invite friends and neighbors to join them at the annual Potrero Hill Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, in the Daniel Webster schoolyard. Help will be much appreciated in the planning, setting up and staffing the Clinic's booth. For particulars, call 648-3022.

The Health Center also announces a Halloween party, Oct. 31 at San Francisco General Hospital, 5 to 8 p.m. on the lawn at the main gate on Potrero Ave.

**Potrero Hill Parents Assn.** meets the second Tuesday of the month (Oct. 10) at the Connecticut Yankee, 17th & Connecticut Streets at 6:30 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the second Tuesday of each month (Oct. 10) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 Dellaro. On the agenda: a thorough discussion of Prop. E (S.F. Charter Revision), with a panel of guest speakers.

**Starr King Park Board** meets the second Wednesday of each month in the meeting room, upstairs at the Potrero Hill Library, 1616 - 20th St.; 7 p.m. These meetings are open to all. This month's discussion will focus on seeding and planting. The board also invites volunteers to join them on the monthly Saturday morning work parties; 10 a.m. on Oct. 7. (Starr King is the open space bounded roughly by 23rd, Dellaro, and Parkview Heights.) Next month's work party; Nov. 4, 10 a.m.

**PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors)** meets the third Wednesday of the month; executive committee meetings and general public meetings on alternate months. Executive committees meet Oct. 18. For information call Elizabeth at 826-6359. Next general meeting: Nov. 15.

**S.F. General Hospital Community Meeting** will take place on Thursday, Oct. 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Carr Auditorium, 22nd & San Bruno Streets. Earlier in the month there will be a public meeting on the issue of Residential Parking Permits, Oct. 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., also in Carr Auditorium, 22nd & San Bruno; and there will be Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. on the front lawn on Potrero Ave.

**Potrero Hill Boosters & Merchants** will meet on their regular last Tuesday of the month, Oct. 31, in the upstairs meeting room of the Potrero Hill Library, 1616 - 20th St., 7:30 p.m.

**Friends of McKinley Square** invite the public to drop by their booth at the Potrero Hill Festival, 20th & Missouri Sts., on Oct. 14 at Daniel Webster schoolyard, where they may obtain copies of the Master Plan with detailed sketches for the renovation of McKinley Square Park and Playground. And save Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 A.M. for another cleanup party! Bring the kids; meet your neighbors at McKinley, 20th & Vermont Sts. Call 821-7279 for more info.

## Unprovoked Brutality

Editor:

On Monday, Sept. 18, I attended a demonstration for Mumia Abu-Jamal, supporting his right to a new trial.

It is because I truly believe that Mumia is an innocent man, who was framed because of his conviction of his beliefs and courage to speak out, that I participated in this peaceful demonstration. We marched, a group of about 250-300 demonstrators, from Powell and Market Sts., until we were derailed and trapped by the police at Taylor and Market. We marched peacefully, not harming anyone or anything. The march destination was to end at UN Plaza. When we were trapped by the police I tried to cross Taylor St. when a policeman tried to stop me by putting his billy-club across my stomach; he pushed me with such force that my insides were in pain, pain that lasted for the next two days. While he was pushing me I fell down and bruised my leg and was bleeding. My upper left arm was also hurting, and the next day I had a large bruise.

This policeman was so brutal. I was not saying anything or posing any type

of threat, that warranted such violence. I'm 5'2" and weigh 120 lbs. Having experienced this unprovoked brutality and seeing this man in action I can only compare him to a robot, that is programmed to attack and injure, with no ability to think, or to use rational judgment.

There is no doubt in my mind now of their insatiable thirst to exert their mighty force on others who attempt to display their frustration and disillusion in the judicial system by rallying or marching in a peaceful manner. This incident only enforces my obligation to continue to protest any cruelty by law enforcers.

**Maya Ulloa**  
Rhode Island Street



™ Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

**EDITOR:** Ruth Passen **ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Judy Baston  
**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Vas Arnautoff, Judy Baston, Ruth Passen

**OCTOBER STAFF:** Lysa Allman, Vas Arnautoff, Judy Baston, Maya Ulloa-Charbonneau, Michael Dingle, Bernie Gershater, Paul Gershater, Larry Gonick, Julia Janrigui, Abby Johnston, Denise Kessler, Ann Longknife, Marylouise Lovett, Winifred Mann, Michael Mattis, Stephanie Potter, Melissa Taylor, Jeff Wood and Lester Zeidman.

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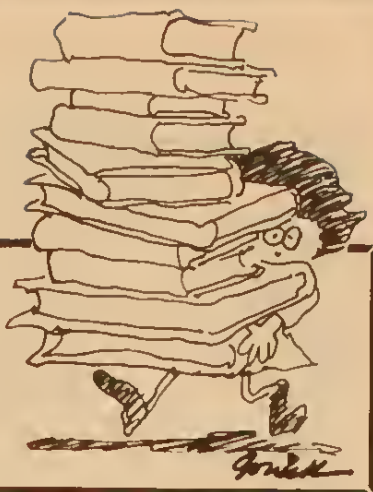
## LIBRARY NEWS

### POTRERO BRANCH

1616 20th St. • 695-6640

#### Closed Monday

Tuesday: 10 am - 9 pm  
Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: Noon - 6 pm



#### THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER THE HAPPIER WE'LL BE

The new school year prompts us to take a fresh look at our children's programming. Thanks to your responsiveness to cues to let us know what you'd like, we are initiating a new schedule beginning in October. Here are basic descriptions of the programs and their times:

**INFANT TODDLER LAPSIT:** For children ages 0-3, these introduce sounds, words, songs, finger plays. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. **STORY TIME:** For pre-schoolers from ages 3-5, these introduce picture stories that will add vocabulary and plots that touch on age-appropriate interests and concerns. Thursdays, 4 p.m. (we polled you — this was the most popular time). **CHAPTER READING:** For elementary school-age children and up, we read the classics aloud. Examples are: "Trumpet of the Swan," by E.B. White, the "Mrs. Piggle-wiggle" series, "Mama's Bank Account," by Kathryn Forbes, "Little Women," by Louisa May Alcott. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. **FILM AND VIDEO PROGRAMS.** For preschoolers, these are chosen for holiday themes or tie in to books in our collection. Wednesdays, once a month as advertised, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. **SPECIAL PROGRAMS:** These utilize invited guests and performers and are aimed at children of all ages (unless indicated) and usually take place on Saturdays at 2 or 4 p.m.

#### IF YOU'RE SCARY AND YOU KNOW IT: OCTOBER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

On Saturday, October 28, at 2 p.m., KIDSTUFF featuring Ginger Nomura will entertain children with Halloween music and songs.

The video "Once Upon a Midnight Scary" will be shown on Wednesday, October 25 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

#### HIGHLIGHTING MEXICAN HISTORY

"Two Views of Mexico," a two-part series, begins on Saturday, November 4, at 2 p.m. David Matsuda, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Cal State Hayward, recipient of the Matsuo Yasui Human Rights Award, and a Potrero Hill resident, will present a lecture entitled "A Cultural History of Mexico." "Noah's Ark: a Neo-Zapatista Delirium," a documentary film by Hill resident Caitlin Manning, will be shown on Saturday, November 11 at 2 p.m.

#### LIFE OF DEBBY JEFFERY CELEBRATED

More than 30 staff members and patrons of the San Francisco Public Library joined family members here on Sep. 8 to celebrate the life of Debby Jeffery and the posthumous publication of her book, "Literate Beginnings: Programs for Babies and Toddlers." Jeffery's unflagging commitment to placing children at the center of library service was a central theme in the remarks of Toni Bernardi, Director of Children's Services, Audrey Wood, former SFPL Children's Librarian and Hill resident, and Mark Wiegand, Jeffery's widower.

#### THANKS AGAIN

Thanks again to Joan and Jim Walton for donating a generous menagerie of stuffed animals to the Children's Room.

#### SUMMER READING AWARDS

At the top of the charts in the "Solve Mysteries — READ" summer reading program were Nicholas Makanna and Katie Matsuda, each with 18 books credited to their reading logs. Happy to inform readers that 112 children registered for the program. Of those registered, 27 completed their goal of reading eight books or more. An ad-

ditional 17 read between 1 - 17 books. The requirements were a little stiffer this year, requiring a minimum of four visits to the library to log books read. Since the program is intended as an incentive to visit the library, we wonder how readers and parents of readers feel about the four-visit minimum. Let us know.

Those who read eight books or more include: Jesse Barrow, Maia Barrow, Elora Belt, Donovan Boileau, Patrick Boileau, Jessica Burke-Lazarus, Kyla Burke-Lazarus, Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth, Frankie Draper, Krista Dyer, Kate Gong, Steven Gong, Kimberly Goussev, Claire Huysentruyt, Mei Li Isaacson, Brigitte Kelly, Nora Lalle, Nicholas Makanna, Katie Matsuda, Nadia Reitzes, Eli Rudnick, Ruby Rudnick, Allyson Schrader, Max Schrader, Samantha Sharpe, Julie Rose Tejada, Lucas Tejada, and Ilannah Waldschmidt. They received awards at the Accordion Book Making Craft Program held at the library on Saturday, September 16. A baseball autographed by Dusty Baker was won by Maia Barrow, who came closest in the guessing contest in which children who read 16 books or more were eligible to participate.

#### NEW HOURS DON'T MEET EVERYBODY'S NEEDS

This librarian returned to work from sick leave unexpectedly on Sunday night, September 17 at 10:45 p.m., when she was awakened at home and summoned to the library by a phone call from a Potrero police officer. There was a break-in at the library, and the burglar, alleged to be a homeless person, was caught red-handed with his big heist: four dictionaries from the reference shelf!

#### COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

\*Alderman, Ellen & Kennedy, Caroline. "The Right to Privacy." What happens when your employer reads your E-mail — on the computer owned by the employer? Authors take up this and other privacy issues that have emerged center stage in the nineties.

\*Jackson, Rev. Jesse. "Legal Lynching: Racism, Injustice and the Death Penalty." The United States is on a death-penalty roll, reinstating the ultimate punishment under the rubric of deterring crime. Since its reinstatement, it has been shown that a black man is 83 times as likely to be executed as a white man convicted of killing a black person.

\*Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr. "Invisible Allies." In this work, the Nobel Prize winner Solzhenitsyn pays tribute to the Samizdat network of anonymous heroes who imperiled their lives bringing his writings to light.

\*Vachss, Andrew. "Batman: The Ultimate Evil." Aiding a social worker in her crusade against child abuse, millionaire playboy Bruce Wayne discovers shocking facts about his childhood and his transformation into Batman. He must vanquish the Ultimate Evil...or die.

#### REACH FOR A HORROR BOOK — A HALLOWE'EN LIST FOR YOUNGER TEENS

\*Avi. "Something Upstairs."  
\*Duncan, Lois. "Stranger With My Face."  
\*Mahy, Margaret. "The Changeover."  
\*Yolen, Jane. "Vampires."  
\*Gallo, Donald. "Short Circuits: Thirteen Shocking Stories by Outstanding Writers for Young Adults."  
\*Klauser, Annette Curtis. "Silver Kiss."  
\*Shelley, Mary. "Frankenstein."

Toba Singer  
Branch Librarian

# TEN YEARS AGO

## In The View

#### NABE DINNER HONORS FR. SAMMON, ST. TERESA'S:

Nearly 200 people attended the Sept. 7 dinner at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House honoring Fr. Peter Sammon and St. Teresa's Parish. At the dinner, a benefit for the Nabe, Fr. Sammon was introduced by Walter Johnson, newly-elected secretary-treasurer of the S.F. Central Labor Council who had worked with the pastor in efforts to aid farm workers and in the San Francisco Organizing Project. Among the speakers were then-Assemblyman Art Agnos, then a Hill resident, who said that "One never hears Sammon say 'You can't beat City Hall,' but City Hall is prone to saying 'You can't beat Fr. Sammon!'"

#### JACK JACQUA HONORED:

Jack Jacqua, then an aide and counselor at the Potrero Hill Middle School, was one of eight community volunteers honored by KRON-TV in a special "For Those Who Care" show. Jacqua was noted for his work and for spending his free time organizing social and recreational activities for young people. (Jacqua now works with the Omega Boys Club which he co-founded.)

#### HOPES FOR NEW TERM AT MIDDLE SCHOOL:

A special leadership class was one of the innovations introduced into the Potrero Hill Middle School at the beginning of the 1985 school year. The class of 40 students hoped to teach pupils "how to motivate and teach themselves, how to harness their energies and use their abilities for improved citizenship and better grades." Dr. Sam Rodriguez, then the new principal at PHMS, told the Friends of Potrero Hill Middle School (FPHMS), that without additional funding some pressing school demands may not be addressed, although the possibility of being named a "consent decree" school would provide help.

#### MISSION BAY PLANNING BEGINS:

Nearly three years after the massive Mission Bay development was proposed, the official process of planning and designing had begun. The City's Planning Department began developing the plan and hiring consultants with funds supplied by Santa Fe-Pacific, the sponsor. After a two-day session, consultants had developed three rudimentary plans, one focusing on housing, one on open space and one on employment perspectives in Mission Bay. Meetings with groups interested in specific issues were to follow.

#### THIS AND THAT:

The proposed Nabe childcare center got a boost through a check from Santa Fe...Good Life Grocery closed its doors on 18th Street and prepared to open at its 20th Street location early in 1986...Dr. Reidar Wennesland, "collector of exotic pets and exotic artists" and also known as the "Monkey Man of Potrero Hill," died and was eulogized in *The View* by Jerry Kamstra...Ethiopian Jewish life and ritual were the subjects of a show by Hill photographer Marriam Cramer Ring at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley...The Potrero Branch Library was showing the work of Hill artist Charles M. Ware...S.F. Film Festival publicist and long-time Hill resident Karen Larsen was celebrating the birth of her first grandchild...Starr King Park was "hydroseeded" with wild flowers and native plants...Spotted — the first Hill outlet for the new state lottery, at Bottom of the Hill on 17th Street.

#### AND 20 YEARS AGO:

From the classifieds: "Wanted To Rent: 2 bdrm. hse/flat, to \$250."

— Vas Arnautoff

#### LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The following Potrero Hill young people participated in the summer reading program at the Potrero Library:

Kwesi Acquah, Madcleine Anderson, Jesse Barrow, Maia Barrow, Julia Behrs, Thomas Behrs, Elora Belt, Donovan Boileau, Patrick Boileau, Jessica Burke-Lazarus, Kyla Burke-Lazarus, Anne Chavez, Charnae Breanna Coleman, Johnnie Coleman, Paul Conrad, Teddy Conrad, Roxanne Contreras, Marie Cosly, Lauren Mae Dahlberg-Seeth, Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth, Curtis Davis, Kirk Davis, Georgia Dominici, Maggie Doyle, Frankie Draper, Krista Dyer, Paola Ferretti, Evan Fossier, Cody Fusco, Nicholas Gallegos, Roxanne Gemignani, Kate Gong, Steven Gong.

Also, Kimberly Goussev, Julia Gurney, Nicholas Gurney, Elise Hernandez, Amber Hill, Melvin Hughes, Shane Hughes, Claire Huysentruyt, Rachel Huysentruyt, Mei Li Isaacson, Marjorie Jimenez, Sonia Jimenez, Ian Jones, Sarah Jones, Shauna Katz, Brigitte Kelly, Jake Kleiner, Quinn Krieg, Nora Lalle, Jessica LeBreton, Gabriella Levin, Yasmin Lux, Neil Magnuson, Nina Magnuson, Zack Magnuson, Nicholas Makanna, Gabe Marquez, Katie Matsuda, Jessica Minton, Geanna Mohamed, Giovanni Mohamed, Hanif Mohamed, Indira Mohamed, Porter Montgomery, De Nita Motta, Jeremy Olds, Zane Osuna.

And also, Hae Yeon Park, Cinda Parra, Aliseo Purpura-Pontoniere, Eli Enea Purpura-Pontoniere, Silvana Aiace Purpura-Pontoniere, John Rasmussen, Ilanna Rebock, Nadia Reitzes, Deirdre Ring-Marrinson, Celia Robertson, Oona Robertson, Zoe Rudman, Eli Rudnick, Ruby Rudnick, James Salazar, Allyson Schrader, Max Schrader, Carla Selvin, Jeremy Shapiro, Natasha Sharpe, Samantha Sharpe, Angela Son, Marlo Surath, Dmitri Staszewski, Helen Sustarich, Matthew Sustarich, Julia Rose Tejada, Lucas Tejada, Jason Tong, Colin Wade, Zander Walbridge, Hannah Waldschmidt, Bonita Walter, Amy Walters, Logan Weir, Walker Weir, Casey Wildgrube, Travis Wildgrube, Yaasmeen Williams, Jessie Wooten, and Todd Yannacone.



#### THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.



# Shuttle Offers Lunchtime Rides to Hill Restaurants

By Jeff Wood

If you can't get to the customers, bring the customers to you.

That's the thinking of several Potrero Hill restaurant owners who have recently hired a shuttle bus to bring hungry customers on tight lunch hour schedules through the doors of their eateries.

A big blue van has been shuttling between the crowded area near Showplace Square and the equally crowded corner of 18th and Connecticut Streets since September 5. It offers a hassle free ride to lunch, faster than walking and far easier than driving and parking.

Perhaps the Potrero Hill Lunch Shuttle will become a neighborhood fixture. Alison Dance, owner of the S. Asimakopoulos restaurant, hopes so. She spearheaded the effort to try the shuttle, along with the owners of other 18th Street restaurants, Aperto, Eliza's, Goat Hill, Just for You, and Thanya & Salee.

Dance says about 10 riders use the shuttle on an average day, with some day's totals reaching as high as 20 to 30 riders. That's not quite enough to keep the shuttle running forever, but a good start. "It will take time for shuttle ridership to increase. People need to become more familiar with it," Dance said.

During the shuttle's trial period, the next one to two months, Dance and the other restaurant owners hope to see customers making a habit of taking the ride up from the shuttle's four stops: at the Contract Design Center; the pedestrian island at the Showplace Square circle; in front of the Galleria (on Kansas Street); and at the corner of 16th and Kansas Streets. The shuttle stops every 20 minutes between noon and 2:30 p.m., starting at the Design Center.

As an incentive, riders have been receiving a Potrero Hill Lunch Shuttle "Free Lunch" card; after eating at five of the participating restaurants, lunch at the sixth is free.

Whether the shuttle ultimately proves profitable or not, Dance is pleased with it. She considers the sign on the side of the bus a "rolling advertisement," and said leasing the bus is less expensive than placing a small print ad in one of the City's weeklies.

And whether it becomes a neighborhood fixture or not, the shuttle is certainly a unique attempt to find a solution to the problem of cramped parking on the Hill's busiest commercial street.



S. Asimakopoulos owner Alison Dance relaxes in door of Potrero Hill Lunch Time Shuttle. Jeff Wood photo

## Nobel Laureate Chats With PHMS Science Students

By Ruth Passen

What sort of questions do sixth and eighth graders ask of a Nobel Laureate? Well, when physicist Charles Townes completed an informal talk at the Potrero Hill Middle School Sept. 19, one student asked how much money Townes had received with the Nobel prize for physics he was awarded in 1964.

Townes, who won the Nobel as the inventor of the maser (an acronym for microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation), and co-inventor of the better-known laser, stressed that the award meant much more to him than the money, which incidentally was \$26,000 (one-half of the total prize money because it was split between three recipients).

His appearance before the selected science students from the GATE (Gifted & Talented Education) program at the Middle School was by special request of faculty members. The previous day Townes had been a guest at the Thurgood Marshall Academic High School in the Bayview Hunters Point area. Townes and 17 other Nobel Laureates serve on an advisory council for the San Francisco School District, and they are all scheduled to meet with students in the southeast sector of the city during the year.

The students were eager to ask questions, which they had carefully prepared with the assistance of teachers and by using material they had read about Townes' life and works. One student asked how it felt to win a Nobel prize. The soft-spoken Townes responded with a chuckle and said that it was the "most

important public recognition one can get," and that he had been "very pleased." He noted that writer Jean-Paul Sartre had won a prize for literature in the same year, but turned it down, later asking for the money, however.

Townes also told the group about meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Nobel festivities in Sweden when they both received their prizes -- Dr. King getting the peace prize. Townes said it was an especially happy moment for him because an aunt of his who had attended Dr. King's church had often written to Townes about the bright "young minister." When he introduced himself to Dr. King, the civil rights leader quickly recognized Townes' aunt's name and told him that his aunt had often spoken about him.

Professor Emeritus at U.C. Berkeley, Townes serves on an advisory commission to the President, and spent two years in that capacity in Washington, D.C. He stressed that "scientists have a role in society as well as in science and can be valuable advisors to political leaders." The acclaimed scientist pioneered quantum electronics, and most recently he developed a pair of moveable telescopes for obtaining very high angular resolutions of astronomical objects. He is also an advisor to NASA, and is helping acquire old computers from that agency for schools, including Potrero Hill Middle School.

Concerns about their own scholastic abilities caused some students to question Townes about his IQ. Since intelligence wasn't tested in his day, the 80-year-old scientist said he never knew what his IQ was, and isn't concerned, suggesting that the students needn't be overly concerned either. To prove his point, he related a story about Albert Einstein, who was "a good guy, but known to be not promising as a student," and "most probably didn't have a high IQ."



Prof. Charles Townes (seated) signs autographs for admiring students after his talk at the Potrero Hill Middle School. Looking on are Principal Ron Cabral (left), and SFUSD Director of Development Dr. Shoumen Datta (center). Ruth Passen photo



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# Three Projects Offer Hope For 24th & Potrero Area

By Vas Arnautoff

Three projects that offer hope for a revitalized neighborhood around 24th Street and Potrero Avenue were described to interested neighbors at the Sept. 19 community meeting sponsored by San Francisco General Hospital.

The efforts, if successfully carried out, will provide the area with up to 40 units of new housing (20 of them low-rent), a family resource center, a refurbished theater, and a 10,000 square foot Walgreen's Pharmacy.

In a joint venture, the Good Samaritan Family Resource Center and the Mission Housing Development Corporation plan to build a 13,000 square foot Resource Center and 20 units of housing at 1290 - 1294 Potrero Ave.

The two buildings will occupy the site of the former Good Samaritan Church and the large shingled community center that served the neighborhood since 1911.

The high cost of simply retrofitting the outmoded building after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake prompted the Good Samaritan Board to seek other options. The center is expected to provide preventive health services and referrals, family support services, cultural enrichment services and outdoor recreational programs, and economic community development. Funding for the project will be provided by grants, private funds and foundations.

A groundbreaking ceremony will take place at the site on Oct. 3 at 12:30 p.m.

Another development that proponents expect will have beneficial effects on the neighborhood is the purchase of the York Theater at 24th and York Streets by Brava!, a 10-year-old women's theater group.

The York is a 1,000-seat movie theater that was built in 1927 as a vaudeville house. Open only occasionally in the past few years for special events, it was seen by Brava! as a viable venue for their work.

The theater group, which stages about five major productions a year plus smaller works, plans to split the space into two 300-seat playhouses and add

training areas and classrooms. Based on past experiences, Brava! expects to be able to fill a 300-seat theater for their performances, according to Executive/Artistic Director Ellen Gavin.

Financing for the project is being provided mainly through loans, according to Gavin, and the group expects additional funding through private grants and income from the rental of five storefronts that are part of the York Theater property.

Gavin also pointed out that a theater provides increased foot traffic, especially in the evenings, which will help local restaurants and shops.

The public is invited to an open house on October 8 from 2 - 5 p.m. at Casa Sanchez, 2778 - 24th St., where artists and Brava! Board of Directors members will speak about the York project and answer questions.

A third local venture involves the property on the northeast corner of 24th and Potrero, the former site of a liquor store and restaurant.

The property had been bought by the Gladstone Foundation, which funds research at San Francisco General Hospital, with the expectation of putting up its own research facility. Unsuccessful in getting city permits for the project, the foundation put the property up for sale and Village Properties, a developer, took an option on the site.

According to Village Properties representatives the plan is to demolish the 30,000 square feet of buildings remaining on the property (some structures were razed following damage by last winter's storms) and put in a Walgreen's Pharmacy and housing. Each is expected to cover 10,000 square feet of the property.

The developer stated that 25-30 Mission District residents will find jobs at the pharmacy, which will hold a 40-year lease on the site, and that local artists will be used to embellish the projected building.

The planning process for this project is just beginning and it may be six months before the City Planning Commission holds hearings on it, but Village Properties is hoping to speed up the process.

One witness who dialed 911 said it took 20 minutes for police to arrive. Police Planning Department records pertaining to the incident could not be accessed by press time, and police Public Affairs Department officers were reluctant to comment.

Planning Department statistics from 1994 show the average response time for high-priority 911 calls in Potrero District was 00:05:59, but rose from 00:05:25 in the first quarter to 00:06:02 by the year's end.

"He had nothing to take," said Laporta. "This shouldn't have happened; you get on the bus and you think you're safe. You might be afraid standing on the corner, but the minute you pay your fare and sit down you think you're safe. Apparently that's not the case any more."

## PARK DONATION



Starr King Park Board President Jane Fay (center) holds a check for \$16,946 from Anchor Brewery's Fritz Maytag (right). Starr King Board Vice President Chris Sabre is at left. The check represented proceeds from Anchor's Commons Ale, initially launched to help efforts to keep open space at 18th and Arkansas Streets, where a loft and condo project is now being completed. Sabre said the natural open space at Starr King Park closely resembles the vision Maytag had for the 18th and Arkansas area.

### MUNI and BART Tix at Nabe

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## Hill Bus Beating

(Continued from Page 1)

Jackie Ortiz of the District Attorney's Victim-Witness program, said that she has applied for Adams to receive Victim Compensation. Ortiz notes compensation should cover any medical and rehabilitation expenses up to \$46,000 not covered by Adams' health insurance. Victim Compensation, said Ortiz, applies only "if the victim did not contribute to the crime in any way."

Witnesses at the scene have raised concerns about emergency response time.

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# St. Gregory's to Celebrate Opening With Music, Dance

A new Potrero Hill architectural landmark, St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church at Mariposa and DeHaro Streets, will celebrate its opening with an "Arts Viewing and Performing Arts Open House" on October 7 from 2 - 5 p.m.

Designed by award-winning architect John Goldman, whose feeling for "structure as ornament" is evident in the

building, the church features newly commissioned art works in its plan. Among these are the 10 foot DeHaro Street doors carved from ash wood by Potrero Hill artist Shane Eagleton, who is of New Zealand Maori descent. Eagleton donated his work to St. Gregory's.

Other art work includes the mosaic above the main doors by Russian artists Felix Boukh and Sasha Fomina, a rock fountain by Mendocino stone carvers Franz Arner and Sheri Christiansen, tiles by Dale Wiley, a tile mural by Sasha and Sue Makorkin, and a 20-foot icon by Mark Dukes. On the church towers are five-foot bronze crosses cast from original clay sculpture by James Bishoff.

St. Gregory's was born in the minds of two young Episcopal priests who met while in seminary training. Richard Fabian and Donald Schell. Both were intrigued with the possibility of new forms of liturgy and were able to put their ideas to the test when hired as chaplains at Yale University. There they created a new kind of participatory liturgy which included group dance and an emphasis on the songs and traditions of early Christianity.

After moving to San Francisco in 1977, Fabian created a plan for St. Gregory and, with Schell joining in, the church was officially established the following year. It found space in a rented chapel at Trinity Episcopal on Bush Street and the congregation began a building fund for a church of their own. The official opening is set for the beginning of October.

At the October 7 open house there will be performances by the Walden Marionettes, a Bay Area professional puppet theater; Fat Chance Belly Dance; and original music by St. Gregory's composers performed by the church choir.

-- V.A.



St. Gregory's Episcopal Church at DeHaro and Mariposa Streets.

## Hill's Gonick Featured at Fair

Hill resident Larry Gonick is featured at the sixth annual S.F. Bay Area Book Festival on a panel of local cartoonists who ask "Are You Serious? Comix as Literature," Sunday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. Gonick will moderate a lineup including Bill Griffith (Zippy the Pinhead's Creator), Bob Callahan, Diane Noomin, and Spain Rodriguez. The Festival runs Nov. 4-5, 10-6 p.m. both days at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th and Brannan Streets.



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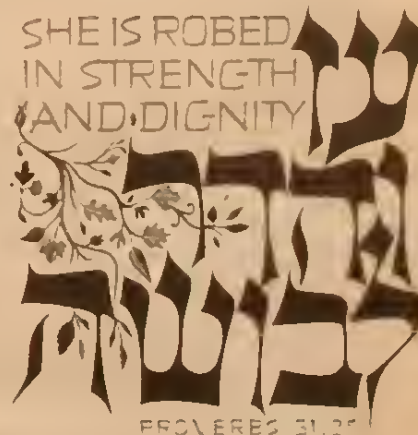
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Funding is provided by the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation's Endowment Fund, the Endowment Fund of the Greater East Bay, The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, plus 50 other organizations and individuals.



The Quaker Center at 65 Ninth St. will host a large rummage sale Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Proceeds will benefit two organizations: Peaceworkers, an international conflict resolution group headquartered in the city, and Friends House Moscow, a Quaker center in Russia dedicated to nonviolence that was run for a year by Kay Anderson, a San Francisco Quaker. Items remaining at the end of the day will be donated to the Community Thrift Store. For more info call 255-8235.

The Potrero Hill Middle School's baseball team, the Stallions, opened this year's league play with a 7-0 victory over Francisco Middle School. Coaches Rick Hanson and Pete Keyes want to point out that Rafael Tenorio stole the show with a no-hit, shut out pitching performance throwing a no hitter, and striking out 17 batters. Some games are played at Jackson Park on 17th Street.

Volunteers are needed for the December Celebration of Craftswomen which takes place over the first two weekends of the month. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt, parking (Ft. Mason Center), childcare, and refreshments. Call 361-0700 or write to Celebration of Craftswomen, S.F. Women's Bldg., 3543 - 18th St., S.F. 94110.

Potrero Hill's Headstart is accepting applications for enrollment of children 2.9 mos. to 5 yrs. For more info call 247-7826.

Don't forget to get down to China Basin (Pier 54) Oct. 7 & 8 to watch the Wooden Boat Festival, sponsored by the Bayview Boat Club and Mariposa/Hunters Point Yacht Club. Events include a Marine Flea Market, rowing races, sailing races, dinghy races, chantey singing, demonstrations, toy boat building, entertainment and a barbeque. For more info call 495-9500 or Peter Snider, 255-7635.

If you enjoy jazz and Broadway show tunes, join in a "Sing-Along with Randy Craig, Oct. 10, 8:30 p.m. at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. And Josh Kornbluth's work-in-progress "Pumping Copy" begins Oct. 5 and runs through the 29th at 8:30 p.m. For info and reservations call 826-5750.



The Iland Bookbinders of California present their 23rd Annual Members' Exhibition Oct. 5 to Nov. 30, at the S.F. Public Library in Civic Center. An opening reception will take place Oct. 5, 6-8 p.m. in the Special Collections at the Library.

Hill resident John Connolly's "Trees of Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens," a series of pencil drawings, is on exhibit through Oct. 31 in the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in the Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park. Admission is free.

The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, located on Potrero Hill, will provide free acupuncture, health education, and support to people with HIV beginning Oct. 4, from 9-noon. The clinic is located at 450 Connecticut St. For more info call 282-9603.

High school students and their parents are invited to meet with a variety of college representatives from the Bay Area and other regions of the state and country on Oct. 21, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at S.F. State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., in the Student Center Bldg. Special workshops on how to apply to the 22-campus California State University and nine-campus U.C. systems will be held. Informational sessions about community colleges and private and independent colleges will also be part of the event. For more info call 338-7168.

A full length production of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" will be performed Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students, seniors and low income. Proceeds from this performance benefits the literary magazine "News From Nowhere." Free events at the Music Center include mezzo-soprano Holly Brown singing arias from various operas, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m.; and a 3 p.m. solo piano recital by Walter

Ahlstedt on Oct. 29. Call 647-6015 for more info.

The American Lung Assn. sponsors a "Better Breathing Course" Sat. mornings, Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Mercy Terrace, 333 Baker St., 6th Fl. There is a suggested donation of \$10. Topics covered in the course include the function of the lungs and how they work, controlling breathlessness through relaxation exercises, recognizing the symptoms of illness, the proper use of medications and oxygen and how to stay healthy. Call 994-LUNG for more info.

Journalist and media critic Ben Bagdikian will be guest speaker at Modern Times Books, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The author's memoir "Double Vision", will be the subject of his discussion. The event is free and takes place at 888 Valencia St. Call 282-9246 for more info.

The diversity and excitement of North Mission's businesses, residents, artists and service providers will be honored with a month-long celebration. A Salsa & Merengue Party, Vintage Book Murt and History Walk are a few of the special events planned for the general public. For a complete calendar of October events call 522-9535.

Free disaster/emergency training seminars are available through Quake Proof, Inc., the first Thursday of every month at 2075 - 3rd St., 6-7 p.m. For more info call 863-0511.

Welcome to Lovejoys' Antiques and Tea Room, which opened in Sept. at 1201 Mariposa St., corner of Texas, where one can not only enjoy English tea and crumpets (and/or scones, trifles) but take home the cup and saucer. Even the furniture and paintings are for sale in this comfortable tea room.

A community tree planting is being organized for the 1995/96 season on Potrero Hill. Houses, apartments, businesses and other properties are eligible to receive a tree at a charge of \$25 per tree. These are street trees -- not for a backyard! This is offered through the cooperation of the S.F. Friends of the Urban Forest and the Potrero Hill Garden Club. For more info and to sign up call Kurt at 285-6202.

The UN: The Next 50 Years is the topic at an all day conference Oct. 24 held at S.F. State University. The conference is free except for lunch. The morning session features Hon. Bella Abzug and the special luncheon speaker is Vice President Al Gore. The afternoon includes panel discussions, and the evening session features Randall Robinson speaking on "The Next 50 Years." For more info and luncheon tickets (\$15) call Cathy at 338-1596.

A photographic exhibit of the lives of several Mission District young people runs Oct. 16-27 at Collision, 417-14th St. The exhibit is a summer collaborative program with Southern Exposure and youth from Horizons Unlimited. An opening reception takes place Oct. 19, 7-9 p.m. For more info call 431-4074.



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# Activist Ruth Davidow, 84, Back from Women's Conference in China, 'Doesn't Know How to Slow Down'

By Lysa Allman

At last month's International Women's Conference in China, Potrero Hill's own Ruth Davidow, a 38-year neighborhood resident, was one of the 93 women from the Bay Area. Sponsored by Global Exchange, Davidow attended "not only as a woman but as an anti-fascist," she says.

This is a very crucial time and the most important conference of this century," Davidow emphasizes, "not only because it was women, but because I believe there is danger again of fascist growth. You see it in France and in Germany, you hear about it in Spain, you read about it everywhere." Davidow described the event as "a wonderful, wonderful conference, and the significance was in the people from all around the world together to get justice, women's rights, and to combat poverty."

Davidow was a nurse and member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Americans who fought against the Fascists in the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s. For 10 years she taught in the Gerontology Nursing Program at UC and in the public health field and has worked with youth for 25 years. Because of this background, she says, Davidow was also invited to the Conference by the Chinese. She spoke at

the symposium for anti-fascists to discuss recognition of the dangers of Fascism, and says that "one of the most important sessions she attended" was a global discussion on the disappearance of funds from countries as it relates to the behavior of transnationals and banks, as well as other issues.

Davidow is also working on a documentary of her life, interviewing young people from San Francisco to Moscow. "What I have been getting from them is how they see this world, what's happening with them, and what they think they need in education. I wanted to continue my work with youth and I was ever present in the youth tent in Beijing. The interviews from all over are going to be in my next documentary."

Davidow considers legendary lawyer Clarence Darrow, noted for representing the underdog, to be her hero. Coming from a poverty-stricken family that lived in the Lower East Side ghetto in Manhattan in the early 1900s, Davidow had plans to become a lawyer. But because of her economic status, there was little possibility of going to law school. Instead, she worked as a waitress and for a businessman sending out mailers. One day he sat her down and asked what a kid like her was going to do being a waitress, "he said I was smart and sharp and 'why don't you do something interesting like being a nurse? You can go all over the world with it, and you don't have to have money. All

you need to do is to get in there and work hard.'" Three weeks later she was a nurses' trainee at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, and soon afterward went with the North American Committee to Spain.

Not seeing history in its proper prospective dooms our children to make the same mistakes over and over that our ancestors did, Davidow stresses. "Education, support, respect, dignity and diversity are not taught by words, but by deeds and actions. I'm hoping that when I do the documentary it will show young people that you don't have to be a VIP, because I never was, and you don't have to be the smartest or the most successful. All you need is a great commitment to the life you're living and the community you're in, and the rest of it is joy."

Davidow's many journeys include Mississippi, where she started a child

care program; a year in Cuba, where she wrote a health plan and served as a nurse; several trips to China and travel to Russia interviewing youth. What's next for this 84-year old dynamo? Future plans include enrolling in a state center that teaches visually challenged people to use voice activated computers, and joining the San Francisco Mime Troupe. "I need fun and the last thing the Mime Troupe did was so hilarious on the election, I told my daughter, 'when I come back from China, I'm going to join the Mime Troupe.'"

Her daughter Joan, Davidow confides, tells her that she cannot run around forever, and that she should start getting some of her life on paper. To that she says, "There are some people who get very irritated and think that I should have shut up and sat down a long time ago, but I don't know how."

## Hill Artists to Display at Open Studios Oct. 21, 22

Artists with studios located in Potrero Hill will open their workplaces to the general public during the weekend of Oct. 21-22 as part of the Open Studio programs sponsored citywide by Art-Span.

Marking the 20th year of the innovative Open Studio policy, more than 500 artists will participate in this largest single visual arts event in the city.

In addition to opening artists' private studios and homes to the public over the four weekends this month, other Open Studios events and programs include a directory of exhibitors, and a store at Embarcadero Center (275 Battery St.) where maps of the studios can be purchased for a small charge. Artists with studios at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard will hold their open house Oct. 28 and 29. Admission is free and studios are open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Open Studio will hold a public reception from 6-9 p.m., Oct. 5 at SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan St. For more

information about the entire Open Studios program contact ArtSpan at 861-9838.



Carlos Loarca exhibits his work during Open Studio at SOMAR, 934 Brannan St. Borja photo



Samba do Coracao, co-directed by Mary Dollar (seated) and Fernando de Sanjines (to Dollar's right) are favorite performers at the Potrero Hill Festival. (See story Page 1)

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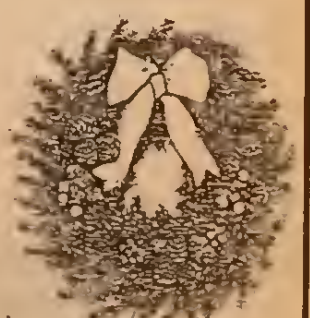
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# Hiller Builds Diversity for Jewish Womens Conference

By Ruth Passen

When an anticipated 1,000 Jewish women from all over the Bay Area gather at the foot of Potrero Hill on Saturday, Nov. 5, one neighborhood woman will be especially proud. De Haro Street resident Marriam Cramer-Ring is co-chair of this major undertaking, a day-long Jewish Women's Conference entitled "Celebrating Diversity, Creating Community," slated for the San Francisco Fashion Center at Eighth and Townsend Streets.

Cramer-Ring and her husband, Al, have lived on Potrero Hill for 24 years, moving here from Seattle and remembering a time when "there used to be groups meeting about everything." She is a native of Los Angeles, where her parents were very involved in Jewish communal activities, and she still recalls her father often telling her, "Even if you don't have very much, there's always someone who has less and who needs your help."

Cramer-Ring is a photographer and photography teacher; exactly a decade ago there was an exhibit of her photographs from a National Jewish Community Relations Council fact-finding journey to study the conditions of Ethiopian Jews. Three years ago when more than 600 people showed up for a Jewish Women's Conference, taking even the gathering's organizers by surprise, she was "a little bit involved." After that conference, Cramer-Ring helped put together a Jewish women's calendar, which indirectly led to her key role in this year's event.

It is clear to Cramer-Ring that "women are interested in and demanding to discuss issues of importance." The Jewish women's community, she stresses, "is very diverse, and people want to be allowed to do what they want to do and still be part of the community, to break down the barriers." Speaking for herself, Cramer-Ring

notes, "I want to understand what I don't, and not be afraid of things I don't know about." If that's her goal, she couldn't pick a better place to help achieve it than the very conference she is co-chairing.

There will be 80 workshops, ranging from such subjects as "Hate Crimes — an Assault on Diversity" and "Translating Personal Values into Social Justice" to "Witchcraft: What's a Nice Jewish Girl Like You Doing in a Religion Like That?" and "Tales My Mother Never Told Me: Jewish Women's Folklore and Superstition." Indeed, the scope of workshops includes issues dealing with Immigration, Disability in the Jewish Community, Lesbians and Bisexual Women in the Jewish Community, Lifecycle Celebrations, Feminist Theology, Aging and Domestic Violence. The conference's sponsors range from the extremely religious Chabad organization to the atheist Society for Humanistic Jews.

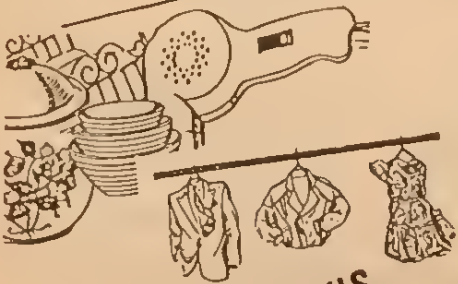
The conference is operating under a grant from the Women's Division of the Jewish Community Federation. Cramer-Ring stresses that the gathering is unique in that it is being organized "by volunteers, about 40 of us of all ages, all kinds of different backgrounds, different perspectives of religion and politics. We're all learning to listen to each other." Cramer-Ring admits there has been "a little flack, really not much" about inclusion of some non-mainstream issues in the conference, but she has fiercely protected the gathering's commitment to diversity.

Conference registration fee before Oct. 20 is \$45, and \$55 after that date, but, Cramer-Ring emphasizes, "people should pay what they can afford. No one will be turned away for lack of funds." More information on the conference is available from 777-3077.



Marriam Cramer-Ring studies the program for the upcoming Jewish Women's Conference.  
Judy Baston photo

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# MET Director Lewis Campbell Speaks Of 'Color Creative Casting'

By Winifred Mann

Intrigued by the announcement that the first offering of MET's new season, opening at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Oct. 25, will be a version of Euripides' great anti-war drama "The Trojan Women," set in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with a prelude based on current news stories and film clips, *The View* sought out MET artistic director Lewis Campbell for some background to this story.

The story, it turns out, is as much about a man as about the Multi-Ethnic Theater. In fact, everything MET stands for today has been shaped by Lewis Campbell's long history as a teacher, his constantly evolving ideas about the uses and art of theater and, above all, his unswerving devotion and respect for his students — and now, for the talented people of his cast.

In the mid-1960s, with four or five years of English and drama teaching experience behind him in a variety of Bay Area schools, Campbell returned to San Francisco, his home base, to fill a part-time post at Woodrow Wilson High School.

Campbell was a life-long theater buff, who already had an impressive list of theatrical accomplishments to his credit — as actor, director, producer, makeup artist, set designer and builder; and always as teacher. Drawn like a magnet to theatrical activity, Campbell began helping with the construction and painting of scenery at Wilson.

He had been surprised to note that while the student body at Woodrow Wilson was almost 90 percent African-American, the drama program was 100 percent white — a situation for which he had a perfect solution. Using his good credit with the drama department, he offered to direct a play, promising to use none of the drama teacher's students; the play Campbell chose was Lorraine Hansberry's "Raisin in the Sun."

When certain well-meaning colleagues warned him not to expect too much — saying, "Remember, you're working with culturally deprived and educationally under-privileged people here," — Campbell cannily decided to repeat that comment to his actors. The result was electric. "They worked their butts off," smiled Campbell proudly, "and gave us a production of 'Raisin' that is still remembered and talked about at Wilson."

After his stint at Woodrow Wilson, Campbell served for a time as head of Actor Training at the School of the Arts at McAteer High School before moving on to the Arts Program at Mission High. It was here that Campbell found a congenial niche as director of something called the Ethnic Theater Workshop. And they could not possibly have found a more perfect person for the job.

Campbell's work at Mission's Ethnic Theater Workshop consisted mainly of directing and producing short scenes and one-act plays — indispensable tools in actor training. It was a program that was about to expand to a full length play, and would eventually lead to a change of name.

First came a highly popular production of Lope de Vega's "Fuente de Ovejuna" (Sheep's Fountain), a production that could only have happened with the fortuitous cooperation of the athletics director, whose soccer team had just won the citywide championship. The coach persuaded his team — almost 100 percent fluent in Spanish as well as English — to audition for the play. Campbell had planned to present it in truly bilingual form. The play was a great success and toured the city, with Spanish and English versions on alternating nights.

Soon afterwards, however a white member of the Ethnic Theater Workshop stopped Campbell in the hall, asking, "Hey, Mr. Campbell, am I Ethnic?" It

didn't take long to realize that a more appropriate name might be the Multi Ethnic Theater, a name that implies greater inclusivity rather than less; and it serves the company well to this day.

In reviewing these past events; and many, many more, Campbell responded thoughtfully to a question about color blind casting. "Not really possible," he said; "we have eyes." What he believes in is "color creative" casting.

To illustrate this concept he cited the production of Thornton Wilder's short one-act play "A Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden," written in a style called abstract realism, about the complexities and contradictions of family interrelationships. In that production, the family of five, was played by actors of five different ethnicities. Campbell claimed that the unusual casting actually added another dimension to the theme of family dissonance and interdependence.

"It's been a learning experience for me, too," Campbell admitted. "I've certainly been made aware of my own narrowness of vision from time to time." He mentioned his resistance to the idea of an all-Asian version of "Raisin" of which he had heard, which turned out to be a huge success. And gender? Only fairly recently, he admitted, did he begin to search out ways of casting women in "male" roles. Now it's standard.

Is there any guiding principle to help keep opening and expanding avenues of inclusion rather closing them off? It's about really believing in people ... trusting them," he said. And more emphatically: "It's about believing in affirmative action ... it does work, and it is necessary!"

Watching a brief piece of an early rehearsal, *The View* had an opportunity to see creative casting in action, and not only with regard to color. In this case,



Lewis Campbell

for example, it was refreshing to see how naturally and gracefully actors with disabilities were integrated into the action.

MET's 1995-96 season will consist of the following:

\* "Sarajevo Voices" & Euripides' "The Trojan Women" plays Oct. 25-Nov. 10, 1995.

\* "Purlie Victorious" by Ossie Davis plays Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 1996.

\* "He Who Gets Slapped" by Leonid Andreyev plays May 22-June 15, 1996.

Each play is performed on Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. (4 weeks, 16 performances, each play). At the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St.

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# View Goats Retire After 20 Years in Media League

By Thomas Murray

The end of an era came with a short and succinct message on my answering machine on a bright, perfect for softball, sunny Sunday morning. "The Potrero View is no longer." Click. That was it, 15 years of commitment — over, no parade, no party, no speeches, no toasts — over, done, finished, ended, put to rest.

That phone call made reference to the demise of the once illustrious Potrero View Goats softball team, which had played in the Bay Area Media Softball League for more than 20 years. The end was not really a big surprise, but nonetheless left a very unpleasant feeling.

My memories span some 15 years — quick visual flashes of shared laughter, anguish, sorrow, pride, camaraderie and jubilation. There is a degree of sadness that something that had been a part of my life, certainly to a lesser extent over the last few years, had come to an end.

Times had changed; many of the old guard had moved to other locations around the globe, taken up new hobbies, had families or just drifted away, which spelled an end to the Goats. No longer did people plan their vacations around the softball schedule, almost needing team approval to take a weekend off in a season that stretched from March into October.

The stories, the characters, the individual plays, the memorable games — you had to be there; from the team's wild and crazy beginning when every fly ball was an adventure, through a period of discipline beyond belief when spring training commenced on Super Bowl Sunday! There was the evolution of the team as a league powerhouse who couldn't quite make it to the top; to getting there and being bridesmaids two years in a row; to a change of leadership and a more relaxed spirit that led to three straight championships, a league record, with six straight appearances in the finals. We had dominance that was envied — and even despised — around the league.

During the "run" in the late 80s and early 90s, we were a team that had fun playing the game, because it was about the game. Winning became secondary to the art of the game, and

the execution, the concentration, the extra effort, the push of one's body and soul to the limits — that was the victory. If you could attain that, the wins and losses just seemed to take care of themselves. The high level of ability was contagious, and good play and hitting lead to more good plays and hits. Seven or eight run innings were not uncommon, and the phrase "everybody hits" was often heard, as well as the unofficial motto of the team, "tighten-up, but stay loose".

It's hard to describe the feeling of diving headlong for a ball and having it come at you in slow motion, being able to see the spin on the ball as it rockets towards your outstretched glove. Watching the ball enter your mitt and see the dust fly and the leather snap back at the impact as it becomes securely enclosed in the webbing. Then feeling the earth absorbing your body as gravity returns it to earth and reality with a sudden jolt. Then, finally, the moment of knowing the play was complete, the catch was made, your mind and body returned to reality, after having been in the baseball zone. That's baseball, that's why I play, — those moments frozen in time. It was a moment of touching a different reality, escaping normalcy, touching — made all the better by doing it with others.

Where have they gone? John, Brooks & Debbie, Onda, Karen, Joe P., Joe W., Wolfcale, Andrew, Tony, Lynn, Raymond, Jim & Gail, Tom B., Steve, Howard, Chris, George, Loris & Joel, Jennifer, Art, Mark, Marc, Dave, Rick, Jade & Judy, Melissa, Linda, Fred, Andy, Noelle, Betty & John, Christie, Eric & Martha, Big Bo, Delene and countless others ... their spirit still lingers around the diamonds of the Bay Area. The era is over, the trophies and, more importantly, the fond memories remain.



The Potrero View softball team, the "Goats," celebrated their third championship season in 1992.

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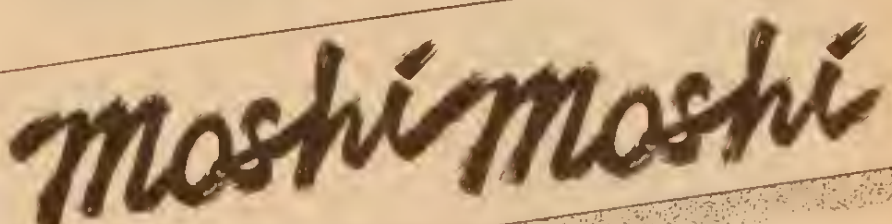
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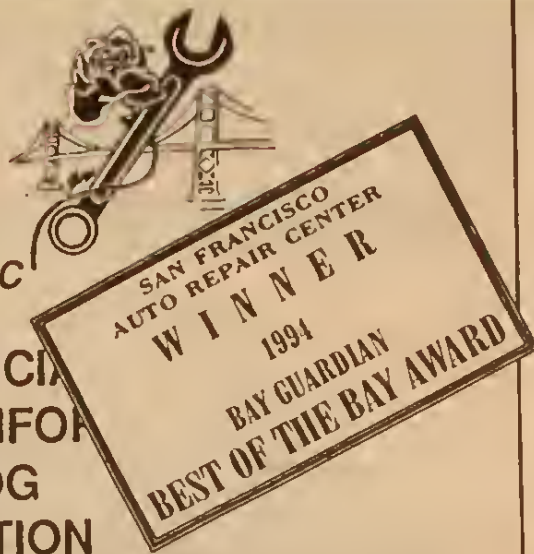


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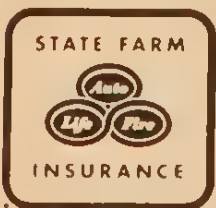


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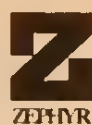
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# Potrero Hill



## Festival '95

Saturday, October 14

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Information 826-8080

Produced by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and funded in part by the S.F. Art Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric, Leo's Tire & Brake, and Dolphin Graphics